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WEST HEMPSTEAD, N.Y.

Holtzman

Former Congresswoman Elizabeth Holtzman called Saturday for the creation of a congressional commission to investigate U.S. government involvement in protecting Nazi war criminals after World War II.

"We must finally explore the still unanswered questions about U.S. ties to Nazi war criminals," said Ms. Holtzman, who is Brooklyn district attorney.

A member of Congress from 1972 to 1980, Ms. Holtzman made her remarks to the Jewish Community Center on the eve of Holocaust Commemoration Week.

Ms. Holtzman helped write laws that authorized the deportation of Nazi war criminals during her tenure in Congress.

She said the General Accounting Office in 1978 found more than 20 alleged war criminals working in government jobs after World War II in agencies including the State Department, CIA, FBI and Defense Department.

The prosecutor said the special, independent commission should investigate how war criminals were allowed to enter the United States and why, and expose U.S. officials who brought them to the country and protected them.